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INCREASED WATER STORAGE WILL CLOSE PARTS OF COCHITI LAKE IN MAY CLOSURES

COCHITI, NM – Many recreation activities will be impeded by the inundation of high water runoff this season from May to early June.

Cochiti Lake will store water resulting from the gradual but higher runoff, and will begin releasing water by the latter part of May through early June.

The water storage will add approximately 12 to 17 more feet of water to Cochiti Lake, making the new beach and swimming area inaccessible to the public during this time.

The Tetilla Recreation Area via Santa Cruz Road will become impassable once the water reaches its highest amount of storage, which is projected to be Memorial Day weekend, so areas along the eastern shoreline will not be usable, including Windsurfers Point.

The lake should return to the recreation pool elevation on or before June 15.

To find out when the impacted areas will be open, call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Public Affairs Office at (505) 342-3171 or visit: www.spa.usace.army.mil.

Additional information:

When the water is requested for release later this month, it will draw down rapidly. The affected lake areas should only be closed for a short period of time, but they will not open immediately upon the water's drawdown. Once the water recedes, inspections and maintenance will be performed to counter damage caused by the swift evacuation of the water. Sand for the beaches will need to be replaced, and road work along the Santa Cruz Road may take weeks before it becomes safe enough for the public to drive.

